

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UV
SUBJ: PRESIDENT LAMIZANA 'S DECEMBER 10 SPEECH

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 3795

1. IT HAD GENERALLY BEEN EXPECTED THAT PRESIDENT LAMIZANA WOULD ANNOUNCE MAJOR CHANGES IN HIS GOVERNMENT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SPEECH ON THE EVEN OF UPPER VOLTA'S NATIONAL DAY. MOST VOLTAN POLITICIANS WERE, THEREFORE, DISAPPOINTED WHEN THE PRESIDENT, IN HIS LONG SPEECH OF DECEMBER 10, CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY MENTION OF POLITICAL OR CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS.

2. THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TURNED OUT TO BE A LONG LIST OF "ACCOMPLISHMENTS" IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS DURING THE YEAR 1976. THE PRESIDENT ALSO PAINTED A RATHER OPTIMISTIC PICTURE OF UPPER VOLTA'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AND EMPHASIZED FUTURE PLANS FOR ROAD BUILDING, MINING, AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. HE GAVE DUE CREDIT TO EXTERNAL SOURCES OF FINANCING AND MENTIONED USAID ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS. REFERRING TO UNSEASONAL RAINS DURING LAST SUMMER WHICH AFFECTED

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CEREAL PRODUCTION IN SEVERAL REGIONS OF UPPER VOLTA,

THE PRESIDENT ESTIMATED THAT THERE WOULD BE A SHORTAGE
OF 114,000 TONS OF CEREAL UNTIL THE NEXT YEAR. HE
DID NOT INDICATE WHAT STEPS UPPER VOLTA MIGHT
TAKE TO MEET THIS DEFICIT.

3. IN SHORT, THE PRESIDENT'S DECEMBER 10 SPEECH WAS
EXACTLY WHAT IT HAS BEEN IN PREVIOUS YEARS: A
REPORT TO THE VOLTAN PEOPLE ON THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL STATE OF THE NATION.
GRAHAM

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